First Congregational United Church of Christ,
Ypsilanti, MI
"Follow Me"

http://bytheirstrangefruit.blogspot.com/2014/03/beyond-tolerance.html

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

February 14, 2016 10:00 am

First Sunday in Lent

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"** **282 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Ivan Harner

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Ivan Harner

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Anthem** **"Halle, Halle, Halle"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Ivan Harner

God of love, in whose name we have been consecrated for discipleship and service, encounter us in this hour, that we may grow in knowledge and actions. Disturb our contentment. Expand our horizons. Upset our priorities. Encourage us to allow change to transform us in this presence of your love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

***Hymn** **"Precious Lord, take My Hand"** **472 NCH**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Habkkuk 3:10-19** Ivan Harner

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **Luke 4:1-13** Rev. Regina Jemison

Sermon **When Your Opponent Seems To Be Winning** Rev. Regina Jemison

***Hymn** **"Lift Every Voice and Sing"** **593 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Rev. Regina Jemison

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional Version Rev. Regina Jemison

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Breath of Life,
In whom we live and move and have our being,
Your presence fills all of Creation.
May justice and mercy reign,
In our lives and in our world.
Today may our bellies be full,
Our hearts warm,
And our fellowship open.
May we reconcile with the people we've hurt,
Just as we reconcile with the people who've hurt us.
Lead us not into a time of trial,
But deliver us from evil.
For wherever grace and community abide,
There you are with us;
We are not alone.
Blessed be.

– by Chance Hunter (Used under Creative Commons license)
http://www.timesandseasons.net/2011/the-lords-prayer-an-alternate-version

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Responsive) Ivan Harner

"Spirit above all spirits, revealed to us in the faithfulness of Jesus. Keep us from temptations that block our worship and silence our witness. Inspire us to share both bread and meaning, to worship with pure motives, to serve without need for recognition or reward, that your name may be glorified and your will be done among us and through us. Amen."

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication *(Unison)* Ivan Harner

"From the abundance entrusted to us, we offer up the best we can give. Guide our use of this precious trust, that it may be spent in ways you choose, in place where you would send us, for the sake of people among whom you wish to dwell. Allow us to be instruments of assurance and compassion in our homes and where ever our journeys lead. Amen."

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Dakota Hymn"** **13 ES**

***Benediction** Rev. Regina Jemison

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

Open and Affirming Covenant of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Feb 14th	Next Sunday: Feb 21st
Usher	Wayne Burling	Wayne Burling
Preaching	Rev. Regina Jemison	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Ivan Harner	Donna Eyster
Worship Set-up	Donna Eyster	Margaret Harner
Acolyte	Wayne Burling	Wayne Burling
Friendship Time	Patty Sherwood	Melanie Harner
Sunday School	???	Tad Wysor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: Today we again welcome Rev. Regina Jemison to the pulpit. In her life, law practice and spiritual care of people, Regina is a tireless advocate, motivational presence, drum major for justice, anointed preacher and intimate intercessory prayer warrior. She is a bi-vocational Christian Minister who believes the gospel has the ability to empower and guide people in living lives that honor God and express love to people. She preaches and teaches hope, redemption, and the spirit of forgiveness with practical application that translates into love for all.

PFLAG: On **Sunday, March 6, from 3-6 p.m.** Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is presenting **"Transgender 101".** This presentation will help our church and community continue on its journey of faith formation as an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church of the United Church of Christ (UCC). **Please reserve your space by March 1st. by calling the office at (248)651-6225.**

Michigan Opera Theatre is coming to Ypsilanti for a FREE Opera Club event!

Learn about opera from those who love it! Please join us for an evening of live music, discussion, and light refreshments as we explore Aaron Copland's rarely performed opera "**The Tender Land**." Michigan Opera Theatre Studio Artists, who fill the lead roles in MOT's upcoming production, will perform selections from the opera and other great mid-century American songs.

Aaron Copland's "The Tender Land" is the quintessential American opera. Copland's music is easily recognizable, and speaks of the American landscape during the Great Depression. It is about a traditional, humble, rural Midwest family suspicious of outsiders and their morals. When two worldly drifters arrive seeking work on the Moss family farm, their daughter Laurie, about to graduate from high school, falls in love with one of them and is torn between her roots and her desire to explore the world.

Thursday, February 18th at 7 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti
300 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti
Learn more at www.michiganopera.org
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BIZET CARMEN Friday February 19th & Saturday February 20th 7:30 pm. At **THE CARR CENTER** tickets $25.00 Adults and $15.00 Students. www.operamodo.com Also at **THE JAM HANDY** 2900 E. Grand Blvd. Friday February 26th 7:30 pm Sunday February 28th 3:00 pm.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; Orchard Hills Manor, 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is the same as always (734) 483-3849.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

Today's Cover:

http://bytheirstrangefruit.blogspot.com/2014/03/beyond-tolerance.html

Sunday, March 30, 2014
Beyond Tolerance

Here, we begin a new series, 'Beyond,' that explores how God calls us into a richer understanding of racial justice and reconciliation.

Tolerance is important. It lets us live in harmony with each other despite our differences and helps our society function in peace with itself. We need to be able to get along, to avoid fostering animosity or division. We emphasize the importance of tolerance in our schools and our workplaces. We like tolerance.
But is it all that God would have for us?
We tolerate loud music on the subway. Or tolerate commercials during a TV show. But we should we simply tolerate one another?
No one wants to be tolerated. We never want someone to just swallow hard, grit their teeth and bear our presence. We want to be affirmed, to be celebrated. We want to be loved as Christ loves us.